

Bethany Lutheran Church

4644 Clark Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90808
www.bethanylutheran.org
(562) 421-4711

1st SUNDAY IN ADVENT

+

+

+

NOVEMBER 29, 2020

+ ***God Gathers Us In His Presence*** +

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: Stir up Your power, Lord Christ, and come.

People: **In a world filled with spiritual darkness
may we be ever watchful for Your light
and bearers of that Light until Your advent dawns.**

Leader: Keep Your people ready for Your arrival, Lord,
and by Your Spirit strengthen us to the end;
that we may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ
in whose name we pray and gather.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN:

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

LSB 357



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
 2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest
 5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen
 cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
 all things might - i - ly; To us the path of
 wide our heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that
 ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
 leads on high, And close the path to mis - er - y.
Refrain
 Re - joyce! Re - joyce! Em - man - u - el
 Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

PRAYER OF THE WREATH:

Leader: We praise You, O Lord for light!
 While Advent wreaths mark these days of preparation
 for Christ’s advent on the worship calendar,
 may our lives mark these days of preparation for His final Advent.
 So we pray, that You would kindle within us the flame of Your Spirit,
 that we may be a light shining in the dark places of our world.
 Enlighten us with Your grace that we may welcome others
 even as You have welcomed us and stoke within us a servant’s heart
 that we may serve our neighbors as You have served us.

People: Amen.

Vs. 1 (Sung by Soloist):

*Once He came in blessings, all our sins redressing
Came in likeness lowly, Son of God most holy;
Bore the cross to save us; hope and freedom gave us.*

Vs. 4 (Sung by Congregation):

**Come, then, O Lord Jesus, from our sins release us,
Keep our hearts believing, that we, grace receiving,
Ever may confess You till in heav'n we bless You.**

Leader: He who came and is coming again, Jesus Christ,
comes here today with this promise:
In these words, in His stead and by His command
I forgive you all your sins. Go in peace, ready to greet Him
and ready to introduce Him to a waiting world.

People: Amen.

+ *God Gives Us the Gift of His Word* +

FIRST SCRIPTURE: *Isaiah 64:1-9*

*If only You would split open the heavens and come down!
The mountains would quake at Your presence.
Be like the fire that kindles brushwood and makes water boil.
Come down to make Your name known to Your enemies.
The nations will tremble in Your presence.
When You did awe-inspiring things that we didn't expect,
You came down and the mountains quaked in your presence.
No one has ever heard, no one has paid attention,
and no one has seen any god except You.
You help those who wait for You.
You greeted the one who gladly does right and remembers Your ways.
You showed Your anger, because we've sinned.
We've continued to sin for a long time.*

Can we still be saved?
We've all become unclean,
and all our righteous acts are like permanently stained rags.
All of us shrivel like leaves, and our sins carry us away like the wind.
No one calls on Your name or tries to hold on to You.
You have hidden Your face from us.
You have let us be ruined by our sins.
But now, LORD, You are our Father.
We are the clay, and You are our potter.
We are the work of Your hands.
Don't be too angry, LORD. Don't remember our sin forever.
Now look, we are all Your people. – GW®

SECOND SCRIPTURE: *Psalm 80:1-7*

Open your ears, O Shepherd of Israel,
the one who leads the descendants of Joseph like sheep,
the one who is enthroned over the angels.
Appear in front of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh.
Wake up your power, and come to save us.
O God, restore us and smile on us so that we may be saved.
O LORD God, commander of armies, how long will you smolder in anger
against the prayer of your people?
You made them eat tears as food.
You often made them drink their own tears.
You made us a source of conflict to our neighbors and our enemies made fun of us.
O God, commander of armies, restore us and smile on us
so that we may be saved. – GW®

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HOLY GOSPEL: *Mark 13:24-37*

“**N**ow, after the misery of those days, the sun will turn dark, the moon will not give light, the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the universe will be shaken.

“Then people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. He will send out His angels, and from every direction under the sky, they will gather those whom God has chosen.

“Learn from the story of the fig tree. When its branch becomes tender and it sprouts leaves, you know summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happen, you know that he is near, at the door.

“I can guarantee this truth: This generation will not disappear until all these things take place. The earth and the heavens will disappear, but my words will never disappear.

“No one knows when that day or hour will come. Even the angels in heaven and the Son don’t know. Only the Father knows. Be careful! Watch! You don’t know the exact time. It is like a man who went on a trip. As he left home, he put his servants in charge. He assigned work to each one and ordered the guard to be alert. Therefore, be alert, because you don’t know when the owner of the house will return. It could be in the evening or at midnight or at dawn or in the morning. Make sure he doesn’t come suddenly and find you asleep. I’m telling everyone what I’m telling you: ‘Be alert!’”

– GW®

+ *We Give Thanks for God’s Word* +

OFFERING: *If you so desire, Text Giving is now available.
Text GIVE to 562-210-0463. Thank you!*

HYMN OF THE DAY: *“Praise and Thanksgiving”* LSB 789



1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, Fa - ther, we of - fer For all things
2 Bless, Lord, the la - bor We bring to serve You That with our
3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing Food for Your chil - dren, By Your wise



liv - ing, Cre - at - ed good: Har - vest of sown fields, Fruits of the
neigh - bor We may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, We would work
guid - ing Teach us to share One with an - oth - er, So that, re -



or - chard, Hay from the mown fields, Bloss - som and wood.
with You, Har - vest - ing, mill - ing For dai - ly bread.
joic - ing With us, all oth - ers May know Your care.

MESSAGE: “Stir Up Your Power Among Us, O Lord, and Fill Us with Readiness”

Text: Mark 13:24 - 37

NICENE CREED:

(catholic means the universal Christian Church)*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy *catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER:

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.

+ *God Sends Us Forth for Lives of Love and Service* +

THE BLESSING:

Leader: The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God the Father, and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you always
People: **And also with you!**

CLOSING HYMN: "Hark the Glad Sound" LSB 349



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

+ + + + + +

COPYRIGHT PERMISSIONS:

Liturgy (or the appropriate portion thereof) from *Lutheran Service Book*
©2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission. License #000012696

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” LSB 357

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; *Psalterium Cationum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710;
tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66 alt. Tune: French, 15th cent.; setting: C. Winfred Douglass, 1867-1944
Text and music: Public domain.

“Once He Came in Blessing” LSB 333

Text: Johann Horn, c. 1490-1547; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, sts. 1, 4, alt;
tr. *Lutheran Service Book*, 2006, sts. 2-3. Tune: Michael Weisse, c. 1480-1534.
Text (sts. 1, 4) and tune: Public domain.

“Praise and Thanksgiving” LSB 789

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-84. Tune: Gaelic, 19th cent. Text: © 1987 Oxford University Press.
All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONELICENSE #A-706149. Music: Public domain.

“Hark the Glad Sound” LSB 349

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-51. Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820;
setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. Text and music: Public domain

SERVING GOD’S HOUSE TODAY:

Children's Message... Kayleigh Lopez
Piano/Organ... Kevin Bowers
Preacher... Pastor Mark Siegert
Liturgist... Pastor Kevin Kritzer

THE BETHANY BLUEPRINT

Having been called to Faith in Christ, moved by the love of God the Father
and empowered by the Holy Spirit, the members of Bethany Lutheran Church are committed to:

Worshiping Faithfully (Acts 2:42, 46)
Forming Spiritually (Colossians 1:10-14)
Serving Passionately (Ephesians 2:10)
Giving Proportionately (Luke 21:1-4)
Sharing Intentionally (Matthew 28:19-20)

WEEKLY CHIMES

THE PARISH LIFE OF BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
4644 CLARK AVENUE, LONG BEACH, CA 90808
562-421-4711
www.bethanylutheran.org

**WEEK OF
NOVEMBER 29 – DECEMBER 6, 2020**

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Kelsey Ashton	Joyce Klenner	Reva Kramer	Ron Miner	Joe Stok
Pastor Paul Jacob	Elsie Rivera	Evelyn Rucks	June Stewart	
Mary Mendez	Levi Rose	Jean Barton	Daniel Avila	

WORSHIPING FAITHFULLY: Hebrews 10:25

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Until further notice, all Sunday Services will be held outdoors at 8:00 & 9:30 AM,
either on the Field or Friendship Square, weather permitting.**

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HEAR TODAY'S SERMON OR PREVIOUS SERMONS AGAIN...

You can hear them as podcasts on our website www.bethanylutheran.org.

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SERVICES



Christmas Eve Worship Services

Thursday, December 24th

Services at 1:00, 2:30, 4:00 and 5:30 PM

*****PLEASE NOTE*****

There will be **NO** Christmas Day or New Year's Eve Worship Services this year.



Advent & Christmas Chimes



“Lo, how a rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse’s lineage coming as prophets long have sung, it came, a flow’ret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night. Isaiah ‘twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind; with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind. To show God’s love aright, she bore to us a Savior, when half spent was the night.

This flow’r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere, True man, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us and lightens ev’ry load.

O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woe; O Savior, King of glory, who dost our weakness know: Bring us at length we pray to the bright courts of heaven, and to the endless day.”

Patient waiting and joyful expectation are hallmarks of this Friedrich Layriz’s hymn; even as they are hallmarks of Advent. A deep peace unlike anything the world can offer and gracious forgiveness that only heaven can render are the promises the hymnist reminds us of; even as they are the gifts Christ brings.

While it is admittedly a lesser sung song, “*Lo How a Rose E’er Blooming*” is a one stop hymn of Advent observations and Christmas celebrations. The purpose of the Advent/Christmas Chimes is to serve as a one stop source of information regarding worship during the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Our Advent services this year at Bethany will be 7:00 PM services on Wednesday evenings off campus, at home services via Zoom. Each Monday’s Bethany Bullet, starting on November 23rd, will include instruction on how to join in the Zoom Advent service.

Our Sunday morning Advent worship services will take place in-person, on-campus at 8:00 AM & 9:30 AM, weather permitting; weekly registration will continue via the Special weekly Bethany Bullet worship edition. We will also continue to have an on-line pre-recorded worship service through Advent available on our website by midday Saturday. This Advent we will also introduce a live recorded service of our on-campus worship available Sunday afternoons on our Vimeo account which can be accessed through the Bethany website.

Our Christmas worship celebrations this year will include Christmas Eve services held in Friendship Square. Registration will be required and will be taken through our website, as we currently do for Sunday on-campus worship.

The special edition Bethany bullet the week of December 14th will open registration for on-campus Christmas Eve worship.

Whereas, Christmas Eve Worship will be in Friendship Square; ***masks will be required, chairs will be preset to maintain social distancing and they will be disinfected between services.*** Attendance will be limited to 100 people per service. Service times will be 1:00, 2:30, 4:00 and 5:30 PM. Registration-pending, additional services may be opened. The 1:00 PM service will also be live-streamed and you can join us by going to Bethany’s ‘worship resources’ webpage for the link to the live-stream service. You will also be able to worship with the recorded version of that live-streamed service anytime after 7:00 PM on Christmas Eve.

There will be no in-person, on-campus worship on Christmas Day. However, there will be a pre-recorded Special Christmas Service of Lessons, Carols and Prayers. This service will be available on our website by December 21st. You and your family are invited and encouraged to use this service of Lessons, Carols and Prayers for your Christmas morning worship and anytime else over the 12 days of Christmas. When and where possible, comfortable and able to be accomplished safely, you might even want to invite a neighbor or friend to join you for this service or you might want to send a link to your family and friends as a gift this Christmastide.

Each of these worship services will empower and equip us to embrace the heart of Advent’s observations and Christmas’ celebrations which cries, ***“Bring us at length we pray to the bright courts of heaven, and to the endless day.”***

Couch Conversations- Take some time this week with your family, or on your own to have some conversations about our text and theme for worship. Perhaps you can do this on the couch right after the last song or later around the dinner table. You could even use them to have conversations in the car. We hope that these conversations will help you as you continue to be formed spiritually.

Mark 13:24-37

At first glance, today's Gospel reading doesn't sound very merry or appropriate for the season of Christmas. But remember that Advent is not just getting us ready for Christmas, but is also getting us ready for when Jesus will return. With that in mind, these verses remind us to get ready!

-What do you do at home to get ready for Christmas?

-How should we get ready for the return of Jesus?

-How will the return of Jesus be a better celebration than Christmas?

SERVING PASSIONATELY: Ephesians 2:10

FALL VOTERS' MEETING: The next Voters' Meeting will take place on December 6th at 9:00 AM. This meeting will be for simple updates. There are no motions.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Until further notice, the Church Office hours are:

Monday – Thursday from 7:30 AM – 12:00 PM noon. Closed Fridays.

*****PLEASE NOTE*****

The Church Offices will be closed on Thursday & Friday, December 24 - 25. We will be celebrating the birth of our Savior! O come let us adore Him!



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS: Act 2:44

"All Is Bright! A Concordia Christmas"

COVID has brought a number of changes to the way we will celebrate the Christmas season. Concordia University has a unique opportunity to share the good news, help us adore Him and celebrate the light that shines because of Christ's birth by airing "All is Bright! A Concordia Christmas" on PBS SoCal on **December 22, 24 and 25**. Check your local listings.

